

10. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each distribution point is in wireless communication with at least one access point.

11. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein at least one distribution point is in wireline communication with at least one access point.

12. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein at least one access point is packaged with a distribution point.

13. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein at least one access point is not collocated with any distribution point.

22. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein at least one distribution point is further in communication with an Internet gateway, the distribution point further operative to exchange packets with the Internet gateway.

31. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein a quality error bit rate is established for each subscriber unit based on a class of service.

32. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein a quality error bit rate is established for each subscriber unit based on a grade of service.

33. (Amended) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein a quality error bit rate is established for each subscriber unit based on a rate of service.

42. (Amended) A method of utilizing bandwidth in a packetized communication link shared between a plurality of subscriber units comprising:
selecting one of the plurality of subscriber units for transmitting;
broadcasting an identification of the selected subscriber unit over a signaling channel;

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determining within the selected subscriber unit any packets that are to be transmitted;

transmitting the determined packets over an information channel; and
queueing packets within nonselected subscriber units for later transmission.

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45. (Amended) A method of automatically adding a distribution point into a network of distribution points, each existing distribution point in the network of distribution points in communication with at least one additional distribution point, each distribution point operative to forward an information packet to one of the additional distribution points in communication with the existing distribution point based on a destination address in the information packet, the method comprising:

transmitting a sign-on signal from the new distribution point;
receiving the sign-on signal in at least one existing distribution point in the network of distribution points;

assigning a routing address to the new distribution point; and
providing each existing distribution point with an indication as to which additional distribution point in communication with the existing distribution point each information packet having a destination address specifying the new distribution point is to be forwarded.
